

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Christine Sherwood
Signature

Applicant : Erlend Olson
Application No. : 09/346,361
Filed : July 1, 1999
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
EFFICIENT MIXED SIGNAL
PROCESSING IN A DIGITAL
AMPLIFIER

Grp./Div. : 2817
Examiner : Steven J. Mottola

Docket No. : 40938/PAN/B600

#201 Response
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RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
September 9, 2002

Commissioner:

Please consider the following remarks in response to the Office action of April 8, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 11-39 are pending in this application. Claims 14-25 and 28-39 have been allowed. In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims currently pending in this case are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 4 - 6, 11 - 13, and 26 - 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Adrian et al. and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Howatt. Applicants

respectfully traverse this rejection. Independent claims 4 and 6 recite in part a semiconductor H-bridge controller wherein its outputs consist of three states.

The present invention involves a semiconductor H-bridge control device which takes two states (1,0 as seen in Fig. 10) and generates as its bridge output three states (1,0,-1 as seen in Fig. 10) as a function of the difference between the two states.

Adrian et al. on the other hand merely teaches a typical H-bridge which takes three states (+,0,- as seen in Fig. 9B) and merely passes through the bridge an output having corresponding three states. In addition, Howatt similarly teaches a typical H-bridge three states (+,0,-) and merely passes through the bridge an output having corresponding three states.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 4 and 6 are not anticipated by Adrian et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or unpatentable over Howatt under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Further claims 5 and 12 and 13 that depend upon independent base claims 4 and 6 respectively are allowable as are claims 4 and 6 and for the additional limitations recited therein.

Similarly, independent claim 11 recites in part a modulation stage for signal shaping and a semiconductor H-bridge controller which generates a multi-state output. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is not anticipated by Adrian et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or unpatentable over Howatt under 35 U.S.C. §103 for the same reasons set forth above for claims 4 and 6.

Further, claim 26 recites a semiconductor H-bridge controller which generates a multi-state output, with at least three states. As such, Applicants submit that claim 26 is not anticipated by Adrian et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or unpatentable over Howatt under 35 U.S.C. §103 for the same reasons set forth above for claims 4 and 6. Applicants further submit that claim 27 that is dependent on claim 26

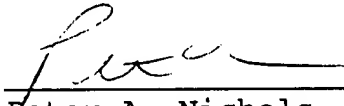
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is allowable as is claim 26 and for the additional limitations recited therein.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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